

Working Group Report Summary

8 of 13 Working Groups responded:

- **Current Plan/Charter** – 88% have a current plan or charter for collection.
- **Metadata** - Only the **Biological Data Working Group** had metadata discoverable through the FGDC Clearinghouse. (The other working groups focus on standards development, not data development).
- **Data Sharing Policy** - Only the **Sustainable Forest Data Working Group** has a data sharing policy. (The other working groups believe data access information policies vary by program and agency).

Recommended for Discontinuation:

- **Earth Cover Working Group**

No Response From:

- **Clearinghouse Working Group** (the questions did not apply to the working group's activities)
- **Earth Cover Working Group**
- **Historical Data Working Group**
- **Standards Working Group**

Areas of Concern:

- Need process for fast and broad consensus.
- Need continual resources for standards.
- Security concerns – homeland security data is faced with differing views on what constitutes sensitive data and the conflicting desires to protect sensitive information and to allow for broad participating in processes, data development, and sharing.

Lessons Learned:

- Tabular/statistical databases/tables are currently not held to the requirements of Circular A-16 and Circular 119. Tabular/statistical databases have and continue to be valuable resources for government and the public. Metadata for these resources makes will make their discovery easier and broaden their use.